

Weekly Views

January 4, 2013

The USS Vincennes Ticonderoga Class Missile Cruiser has left "port" from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) bound for a permanent home in Vincennes, IN. The model was presented in appreciation to former Vincennes Mayor Belle Kasting. Ms. Kasting is a long time member of the WVCF Community Advisory Board and active supporter of the facility PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) unit. PLUS offender Larry James constructed the scale model. The "ship" took over 1000 hours to complete and is made entirely from card stock paper, cardboard, thread, paint, and glue. The "real" Vincennes was launched in the 1980's and retired nearly two years ago. (see photo right)

Several residents from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility assisted staff at Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Inc. in preparing more than 1,000 food boxes for the agency's Holiday Meal Program. Director Cynthia Taylor and other agency representatives presented the group of residents with certificates of gratitude for their work in feeding the needy.



IDOC Superintendents and facility staff from across the state joined Central Office for a preview of a new documentary featuring the Indiana State Prison (ISP). This two-part documentary series, titled "Life and Death: Inside the Indiana State Prison", was filmed at ISP in May/June 2012 by a production crew from Plum Pictures Ltd out of London. The documentary features interviews between the host, Sir Trevor McDonald, and ISP Superintendent Bill Wilson, staff and offenders. The series aims to give audiences insight into the day-to-day life inside one of America's oldest maximum security prisons. During Sir Trevor McDonald's journey inside the wall, he visits the facility's Barber Shop, Administrative Segregation, and even Death Row. The documentary will be broadcast this month in primetime on ITV1, the UK's highest-rated commercial channel, with expectations for a future U.S. airdate. Following the premier, Superintendent Wilson, Public Information Officer Pam James, and Correctional Lieutenant Curtis Gillespie spoke about their experiences in filming the documentary and answered questions from the audience.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility is pleased to announce the promotion of three staff members. Correctional Officers Sean Reger and Jason Servizzi have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Sergeant Steven Hill was promoted to Lieutenant. Best of luck to these employees as they begin their new roles at the facility!

Offenders at Edinburgh Correctional Facility completed several fundraisers in 2012 with the proceeds donated to several worthy causes including the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Special Olympics Indiana, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and American Legion. 1,500 pounds of fresh vegetables from the facility's garden were also donated to the Hope Food Bank. A total \$2,200 was donated throughout the year. All of the money was raised through fundraisers where the offenders are offered the opportunity to purchase outside food items from McDonalds, Arby's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and other local restaurants. All of the profits from the food sales are donated to charities and worthwhile causes or events. Edinburgh is already preparing to jump in head first in 2013, participating in the annual Polar Plunge which raises money to assist Special Olympics. The event takes place in February 2013.

Bill Glass Champions for Life came to the Indiana Women's Prison. David Pendleton, a ventriloquist, participated in the morning session. The offenders were entertained by a "dummy" prisoner and a "dummy" grandma that brought humor and lightheartedness to the New Year. In the afternoon session, the Zak Alwin band from Campus Life played Christian rap and various melodies. In both sessions, the offenders broke off into small groups with Campus Life college student to discuss their faith and place with God.

The Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) donated a dollhouse to the facility's Family Education Department Children's Visitation Center (CVC). INVET Resident Denver Claywell (pictured left) devoted several months renovating the structure and foundation of the dollhouse, which was in disrepair when it was received by the unit. Upgrades include new doors, trimmings, fencing, outside steps, fresh paint, spiral staircases, and hardwood floors which he fashioned from Popsicle sticks. Claywell also added a steeple and a three story fireplace, which he decorated with pebbles and rocks he hand-picked from around the facility grounds. The dollhouse's new wallpaper was donated by the Sherwin William Avon store. The new house will be displayed in the CVC's play area.

